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19. Miscellaneous resins.

Several trees, such as the "Kok-Mai-Niang, Kok-Mai-Tabeng, [Illustration here] Kok-Mai-Sak" (1), etc., yield an oleo-resin which, when mixed with paddy husks, is used to make torches and a siccative, shiny extract which is called "Nam-Mane-Niang," and again a kind of pitch (Khi-Si) which is used to caulk pirogues and to smear various basketwork receptacles so as to make them watertight. It is similar to damarine.

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(1) See Appendix XX.

The production of these resins is limited to local needs.

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20. Black lacquer.

The black lacquer of Laos is a natural black varnish, thick and [343] solid, which is called "Nam-Kieng." It is secreted by the "Kok-Mai-Nam-Kieng."

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Nam-Kieng is used to lacquer racing pirogues, elephant palanquins, pagoda columns and statues, frames, receptacles of different kinds, sword sheaths, etc. The lacquer producing trees grow only in certain localities, and the varnish is not exported. Its price varies throughout the land between 62 and 75 francs per hundred kilograms.

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It would be of interest to identify this lacquer with that of Japan, and to study the question as to whether it might not be possible to increase the number of trees which produce it with a view towards making it the basis of an export trade, at least to the countries bordering on Laos.

21. Cunao (the mock gambier, Mak-Soua in Laotian).

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The cunao is a brownish tubercle used instead of catechu, the color of which it has, for dyeing cloth. It is found in Cammon, in a part of the Hua-Pahn and on the right bank of the Nam-Hou. This product is bought mainly by Annamites and Chinese, who use it in Annam and Tonkin for dyeing the peasants' work clothes.